

SYNAPSE SCHOOL POSITION OVERVIEW



TK-8 PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC ASSOCIATE & ACCOMPANIST

Synapse School in Menlo Park, CA, an innovative TK-8 independent school located in the heart of Silicon Valley dedicated to rethinking and reimagining education, seeks a Performing Arts/Music Teacher and Accompanist to fill an Associate Teaching position.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Synapse School is seeking a creative and enthusiastic music teacher with strong piano accompaniment skills for this full-time position. The Performing Arts Associate Specialist will work closely with the Performing Arts Specialists to develop and deliver an integrated, constructivist, project-based curriculum for students in this TK-8 independent school. They will assist with instruction, documenting curriculum, preparing students for two or more formal performances a year, communicating student progress to parents with narrative reports in addition to other responsibilities. Teaching experience and a background or interest in Orff pedagogy is highly valued. A bachelor's degree and the ability to skillfully accompany a wide variety of vocal ensembles is required.

We seek a dedicated, highly collaborative, innovative teacher who loves kids, utilizes growth mindset and wants to be part of an exciting team of forward-thinking educators. Associate Teachers participate in all aspects of instruction, planning, and daily school life. Associate Teachers also receive broad support for their personal and professional growth through weekly seminars, professional development opportunities, and immersive classroom experiences.

IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE ABILITY TO:

- Collaborate with teachers and directors to design, develop, document and assess project-based curriculum.
- Accompany choirs and ensembles in a variety of genres on the piano, including but not limited to: Folk, Classical, World, Gospel, Musical Theater, Jazz etc. This includes following a conductor, maintaining a large repertoire of songs, providing a solid foundation for students as they learn, occasionally improvising simple folk accompaniments. Vocal ensembles can range from 2 to 200+ students.
- Accompany performances of Tk-4 vocal ensembles, Middle School Choir, and 7th & 8th Grade Musical Theater.
- Accompany simple folk songs on guitar, ukulele, autoharp, or similar small portable instrument. (Or be open to learning how, ukulele or guitar provided)
- Assess students and write narrative evaluations.
- Lead a 7th & 8th Grade Chamber Music & Composition ensemble of 6-10 students using traditional and/or nontraditional composition techniques with traditional and/or nontraditional instrumentation.
- Attend weekly team and faculty meetings.
- Assist Lead Teachers with: classroom management, instruction, lesson planning, documenting student progress, communicating with teachers and parents
- Assist in Performing Arts classes that may include but are not limited to:

- TK-4 Performing Arts: Including leading group songs, developing Orff arrangements, creative movement, folk dance and drama activities, accompanying for performances
- 5th & 6th Grade Orff Blues, Jazz, World Music, and Digital Composition
- 7th & 8th Grade Musical Theater Ensemble

WORKING CONDITIONS MAY INCLUDE:

- Ability to work at a desk, conference table or in meetings of various configurations.
- Ability to stand and circulate for extended periods of time.
- Ability to see for purposes of reading music, correspondence, documents, and printed matter and observing students. Ability to hear and understand speech at normal levels.
- Ability to communicate so others will be able to clearly understand normal conversation.
- Ability to bend, crouch, kneel to assist students in pushing/pulling and lifting of musical equipment and supplies, sitting in chairs and/or floor and reaching in all directions.
- Ability to lift up to 25 pounds.
- Ability to carry up to 25 pounds.
- Periods of moderate to high-stress level.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

- Dexterity and physical condition to maintain a rigorous work schedule and meet standards of physical and mental health.
- To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily.
- Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the position.
- Individuals must maintain a professional attitude and appearance.

SALARY RANGE:

\$70,000 - \$80,000/ year

Synapse offers a generous benefits package including health, dental, and retirement, as well as additional lifestyle perks. Housing stipends available to those who qualify.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants should email a cover letter detailing experience and interest, three names of references with contact information, and a résumé, to careers@synapseschool.org with the subject line “Performing Arts Associate” to the attention of Natalie Einhorn, Director of Fine Arts. This is a full-time, exempt, salaried position. Synapse School offers industry leading benefits packages. The position is open until filled; the start date is August 7, 2023.

Synapse School does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability and familial affiliation or any other characteristic protected by law. All applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT:

Synapse School is committed to developing an inclusive community and a safe learning environment for students, families, faculty and staff members regardless of race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, socio-economic status, family structure, faith, ancestry, national origin, medical condition, or genetic information. We honor, respect and celebrate all differences, both visible and invisible. We believe that all students benefit from learning to value, engage with, and understand diverse perspectives as a way of increasing empathy and creating positive change in the world.